

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 4-8 are pending in the present application.

The rejections of Claims 1, 2, and 4-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph (enablement), is respectfully traversed.

In the outstanding Office Action the Examiner has rejected the claims as lacking enablement for the limitation that the ion adsorption module comprise a stratified bed where each bed (of the stratified bed) comprises organic porous cation exchange material and organic porous anion exchange material. The Examiner alleges that this limitation does not find support in the specification as filed and further alleges that the specification at page 7, lines 21-23 supports the interpretation that "each layer (bed) of this stratified bed contains only cation exchange material or only anion exchange material, not both of these materials together."

Applicants note that the language appearing at page 7, lines 21-23 is the same as that appearing in original claim 3, which stated:

"The module according to claim 1, wherein the organic porous ion exchange material comprises an organic porous cation exchange material and an organic porous anion exchange material, and the module comprises a stratified bed wherein each bed comprises the organic porous ion exchange material comprising the organic porous cation exchange material and the organic porous anion exchange material."

Applicants submit that the proper interpretation of this phrase is completely different from the Examiner's. Specifically, the organic porous material of the present invention contains ion-exchange groups such as a cation exchange group, an anion exchange group, and a chelate-forming group. These groups may be introduced either individually or in *combination of two or more* as clearly indicated in the specification at page 12, line 11 to

page 13, line 19 of the specification). These paragraphs thus describe that a cation exchange group and an anion exchange group may be introduced into the organic porous material in combination. In other words, the specification discloses an organic porous material containing both a cation exchange group and an anion exchange group. In addition, the specification describes a method of filling a sheet of the porous ion exchanger in layers (page 23, lines 5-8). Further reference is made to page 24, lines 5-7, where beds containing a mixture of the organic porous cation exchange material and organic porous anion exchange material are disclosed.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that an ion-adsorbing module composed of a stratified bed made of a layered organic porous material containing both a cation exchange group and an anion exchange group is disclosed in the specification of the present invention.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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